

**ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 29, 1994**

**Board Room  
390 Broad St.  
Newark, NJ**

**M I N U T E S**

**PRESENT:** Gene Calderon, Mercedes Del Valle Rana, Mirva Rivera, Margaret Rosario Rivera, George Santiago, Jose Valentin, Noemi Velazquez

**ABSENT:** Jose Acevedo, Carlos Alma, Hector Bonilla

**STAFF:** Roberto Del Rios, Grace Merez, Angela Corbo

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order approximately 6:20 pm by Margaret Rosario Rivera, Chair.

**II. WAIVER OF NOTICE**

All Board members present indicated that they were duly notified of the meeting.

**III. MINUTES**

Gene Calderon made the motion to accept the minutes with the following correction "future meetings be attended". Jose Valentin seconded the motion with corrections, which was then passed unanimously.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Margaret Rosario Rivera indicated that she was concerned with the election of officers as scheduled because several Board members were not present at the meeting.

**V. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Margaret Rosario Rivera reported that she is pursuing members for the Committee of Sponsors. She informed the Board that Grizelle Arias Kaplan from first Fidelity Bank is interested in joining the committee. Luis Caban, Director of Mid-West and Northeast Voter Registration, will not be able to participate due to other commitments. She spoke with Rafael Rivera of CBS who asked her to write a letter to CBS requesting David Diaz's participation. In addition, Eleanor Horne of ETS has agreed to serve on the committee. A report on the status of the Committee of Sponsors will be made at the retreat.

ASPIRA registered its opposition to the recommended changes to the Bilingual Education Act by testifying in Trenton before the New Jersey State Board of Education. Ms. Rosario Rivera stated that Noemi Velazquez should be commended for her efforts with respect to the public hearing. She also noted that there will be additional public hearings in the fall and that ASPIRA needs to take the lead as an advocate for bilingual education and children.

Ms. Rosario Rivera said thank you to Rider University and George Santiago for hosting ASPIRA's Student Awards Banquet. She also thanked the Board members, Hector Bonilla, George Santiago and Noemi Velazquez who were present at the activity.

#### **VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Roberto Del Rios reported on meetings he attended with State Senator Rice, Latino Stakeholders in Higher Education, Campbell Soup, NJ Department of Education, Division of Civil Rights. He also reported on the cable TV taping on June 2, 1994. ASPIRA's cable show airs every Thursday at 7:00 pm on Channel 26 (Newark).

He informed the Board of upcoming events, new staff members, the results of the Newark Board of Education's annual audit of ASPIRA's files and ASPIRA's summer hours-- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Please note: for more details please refer to Mr. Del Rios's report that was included in the Board packet for the June 29th meeting.

#### **VII. BUDGET REPORT**

Grace Merez reviewed the 1994- 1995 budget with the Board members. She provided a breakout of the 1994 general operating income of the agency, the projected general operating and program income for 1995, as well as projected expenses.

It was recommended that once the budget is approved there should be a six month report to the Board or a report at anytime the Fiscal Office deems it necessary to bring budgetary issues to the Board.

The Budget will be presented for Board approval on Sunday, July 31, 1994 at our annual retreat.

#### **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Gene Calderon presented the report of the Development Committee. He asked the Board members if they had any comments, questions, that or suggestions on the alumni questionnaire distributed was at the last board meeting. Jose Valentin suggested that we announce in both the Spanish and English media that ASPIRA is interested in contacting alumni.

Since Carlos Alma was unable to attend the meeting, Margaret

Rosario Rivera informed the Board that the Personnel Committee is working on the by-laws and the code of conduct which will be presented at the retreat.

George Santiago made the report of the Programs Committee. The committee has been involved in two initiatives -- Latino Males Conference and the Assessment of Jersey City and Paterson. In reference to the former there was enthusiasm on the part of the participants but it has sort of fizzled out. In reference to the latter, George Santiago recently received information which he will review and if it is appropriate he will develop a draft assessment for review by the committee.

Margaret Rosario Rivera strongly suggested that committee's consider expanding to include individuals outside the ASPIRA Board. She charged the committees with identifying, between now and the fall, 2 -3 persons to serve on the committees.

Gene Calderon then presented an overview of the Latino Males Conference and what information has been received as well as information that is still outstanding. Ms. Rosario Rivera suggested that the committee contact Phil Burch, Rutgers University, to involve him in the research for the males conference. Gene Calderon will provide names and telephones to Board members whose responsibility is to follow-up on our speakers to obtain their presentation.

#### **IX. STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD**

Margaret Rosario Rivera noted that there were no students from the ASAB present at the meeting. She then said that she is concerned about the value, impact, and purpose of the ASAB. Some years the ASAB is more active than others. A discussion ensued regarding the ASAB after which it was decided that students need to discuss the role of the SAB at the retreat.

#### **X. BOARD MEMBERS AND BOARD VACANCIES**

Margaret Rosario Rivera asked the Board members present to review the applications of potential members. She asked the Board to be mindful of expertise commitment location and gender when making decisions. Each application was introduced and discussed. The following individuals received unanimous votes to be admitted to the Board:

1. Antonio Cardona
2. William Cruz
3. Maria Rodriguez
4. Doris Ortiz
5. Hector Ortiz
6. Lourdes Arroyo

The Board decided to defer the decision on Yvette Soto for a later meeting.

#### **XI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Margaret Rosario Rivera stated that the lead officers of ASPIRA's Board are the Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. The standing committees of the Board are Personnel, Programs, and Development.

It was decided by the Board members present to defer election to the July retreat.

#### **XII. OLD BUSINESS**

Noemi Velzaquez reminded Board members that dues must be current.

#### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Jose Valentin made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Gene Calderon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.